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N.C.L.C. embraces wildest of radical remnants

By MIKE LEARY
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NEW YORK — They barricade themselves behind double-locked doors in offices in a score of American cities, and cautiously sift their mail for letterbombs.

Members carry lethal nunchaku karate sticks that they have swung to break up meetings of political opponents.

They say a vast and sinister cabal controlled by the Rockefeller family and the Central Intelligence Agency, abetted by "Nazi mad doctors," is turning the world's population into computerized animals as a prelude to the formation of a "1984 state."

They constantly grapple with "neurotic blocks" caused by "false mother

voice" and the "sado-masochistic nature of bourgeois society."

At any time, they worry, a C. I. A. agent may grab one of them, shoot him full of drugs, force him to commit degrading acts, then, after being elaborately programmed, they would be ordered to assassinate their leader. It has been tried before, they say, and could happen again.

THE GROUP is the National Caucus of Labor Committee, a 1,000-member Marxist splinter group formed from the remnants of the Students for a Democratic Society five years ago as an alternative to the violence of the Weather Underground (another S. D. S.

spinoff) and the lassitude of the drug culture.

In the past year, it has emerged suddenly from obscurity as a bizarre force on the extreme edge of the "radical Left," the rest of which it regards as either duped by the C. I. A. or the C. I. A. in disguise.

With a handful of exceptions, every major left-of-center political group has castigated the N. C. L. C. A socialist theoretician, Michael Harrington, the author of "The Other America," finds it "appalling" and "sad."

As far as the group's leader, Lyn Marcus, a wiry, 51-year-old man with bushy eyebrows and a non-stop speaking style, is concerned, "It is the only Left

group capable of becoming a mass movement 5000 of appealing to the working class of this country to stop the crimes being committed against them."

Marcus' convictions are of fairly recent vintage. During its first four years of existence, the N. C. L. C. periodically worked in shifting "common fronts" with such left groups as the National Welfare Rights Organization (N. W. R. O.) and the Communist Party, now bitter political foes of the N. C. L. C.

BUT NO DRAMATIC changes in American society resulted from such cooperation. And gradually, Marcus and his followers — many of them college-educated and from upper middle class backgrounds — were overwhelmed by a feeling that the radical Left's revolutionary fervor was fading, and that they, alone, could revive it.

Now, members frequently say no other radical groups offer them an outlet for their views, a notion that gives them a strong internal discipline and a feeling of uniqueness.

Indeed, the N. C. L. C. has set up its own version of the N. W. R. O. and a political apparatus to replace the role of the Communist Party. Called the U. S. Labor Party, this group is running candidates for state office in several states this year.